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THE CRAFTSMAN'S NOSEGAY.

———*Medio de Fonte Lepôrum*
Surgit amari aliquid, quod in ipſis Floribus *angat.*

LUCRETIUS.

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TO ſhew how far the Wit of Man will extend to bring about what he has at Heart, one need not have Recourſe to the Inventions of *Eaſtern* Nations; it can be no where more clearly illuſtrated, than by the modern Examples weekly produced of it in *Great Britain*. Remarkable indeed have been the Stratagems of enamoured *Muſſelmen*, to make known and obtain their Deſires; yet ſurely *Love* was never more diligent and alert in contriving various Aſſemblages of Flowers, in the Arrangement of a

Noſegay, to gain Admittance into the *Seraglio*, than the *Craftſman* has been, to introduce Calumny and Slander into the Minds of his unwary Readers. Like a Felon who counterfeits the true Coin, he wants neither Induſtry nor Ingenuity to ſtamp his Malice into Currancy; but, unfortunately for him, he iſſues out from the abundance of his Heart, infinitely more Paper-Accuſations than he is any ways able to anſwer, when the Sum of them comes to be demanded back in Standard Truth: And then he becomes Bankrupt of all Shame and Remorſe. An immoderate Zeal for Slander makes him as often overſhoot his Mark, as a Conſciouſneſs of Falſhood drop ſhort of it; as a Cannon pointed either too high or too low, equally miſſes its intended Execution.

I have heard that Envy and a malicious Indignation have made a dull Fellow witty, but in him they have produced a mad Enthuſiaſt: For which Aſſertion I need only appeal to his Lucubration of the 21ſt paſt; where Learning and allegorical Writing (which by good and honeſt Minds are made the Vehicles of Truth and Morality) are in his hands become Inſtruments of Vice and Sedition, againſt the Father of his People, and Servants ſo upright, that his Slander hath been only able to endeavour to taint them with its Breath; while Juſtice, whenever they ſhall be

fairly attack'd, is ready to abſolve them with Hour and Applauſe.

Had he been as converſant among the Writings of he *Eaſtern* Nations, as he wou'd have us believe he is, y his endeavouring to write in their manner, he vould have remembred the known Proverbs among hem; That *as the Legs of the Lame are not equal, ſo is Parable in the Mouth of Fools*; and *as a Thorn goeth into the Hand of a Drunkard, ſo is an Allegory in the ſt of a Slanderer*. But, as the ſame Sages adviſe us, metimes to *anſwer a Fool according to his Folly, leſt he wiſe in his own Conceit*, I will oblige him with a uotation from the *Turkiſh* Hiſtory, no leſs faithfully tracted, than his own from *Sanchoniathon*; and which hope will as fully anſwer my Purpoſe, as he may agine that has done his.

" - - - - Love Intrigues are thus often ſucceſsfully carried on by Noſegays in the *Seraglio*; but one of a quite contrary Compoſition was preſented with a fatal Deſign to *Solyman* the Son of *Selimus* the Firſt.

" *Solyman* was a Prince no leſs remarkable for his perſonal Courage and Bravery, than his Application to Buſineſs and the important Affairs of his Empire. He himſelf read all the Diſpatches wrote to

" the

" the Sublime *Port*, and carefully examin'd all t
" Anſwers returned to them by the *Reis Effendi*,
" Secretaries of State. Nothing eſcaped his Pe
" tration. He was indefatigable in War, and
" Peace; and his Mind, like the Sun, ſaw and e
" lighten'd at once his whole Dominions.

" His Affairs were once in an uncertain Situati
" on the Side of *Hungary*, and the *German* Empi
" which he was managing by a Negotiation; and
" do it the more effectually, he had ſtruck up
" Alliance with *Francis* the Firſt, then King
" *France*, his antient Enemy, but now, joined
" mutual Intereſt, his uſeful Ally. This Treaty h
" been enter'd into in his Father's Time by the A
" vice of his whole Divan; but *Iſouf*, o
" *Haſnadar Aga*, or Treaſurer of the Chambers (wh
" immoderate and unſeaſonable Ambition to be Pri
" Vizier had been the Occaſion of his being diſpla
" appear'd in open Oppoſition to all the Meaſures
" ken by the Sublime *Port*; not out of any Co
" ction of his own Mind, that this Alliance was
" the beſt and only Means to ſtrengthen themſelve
" as to obtain their Deſires of the *Hungarians*;
" out of perſonal Malice to *Huſſain Baſſa*, the c
" Treaſurer, whom he had openly in the Divan fw
" to purſue to DESTRUCTION.

" *Soly*

" *Solyman* treading in the ſame Steps his Father had taken, and employing the ſame Divan to execute his Orders, *Iſouf*'s Hatred ſtill increaſed, and his Enmity to *Huſſain Baſſa* the Treaſurer was ſo notorious, that to this Day at *Conſtantinople*, when they would expreſs an inveterate and cauſeleſs Hatred, they ſay, by way of Proverb, 'tis *the Hatred of* Iſouf *to* Huſſain.

" *Iſouf* continued ſo openly to load *Huſſain* with Slander, that it grew nauſeous; and a true *Muſſelman* would as ſoon have blaſphemed the Name of *Allah*, as have approved, altho' he might hearken to, his Calumnies. He was no longer attended to. The Sultan had ſhut his Ears to his Clamours, for his Eyes had beheld his Actions.

" He had at length no longer Admittance into the Imperial Palace; and he knew not how to utter his ſeditious Thoughts in the Sultan's Cloſet.

" He therefore bethought himſelf, that if he had oftentimes ſucceſsfully ſent his Sighs of Love to the Fair ones of the *Seraglio*, under the emblematical Diſpoſition of Flowers, and they had comprehended his gentle Purpoſe, he might no leſs artfully calumniate by way of Noſegay.

" Pleaſed with this Thought, he imparted his Mind to *Nathan Ben-Saddi*, a *Jew*, of the Tribe of

" *Dan*,

" *Dan*; and to a certain *Renegado*, whoſe Name t
" Hiſtorian would not mention, for fear of taking
" out of the *Oblivion*, in which he hop'd ſo mu
" Infamy wou'd remain buried.

" He ordered them carefully to look out all t
" moſt expreſſive Flowers of mute Calumny; th
" each ſhould bring with him his own Bundle, a
" that they who were the learnedeſt Simplers
" Flowers of Slander in the whole Empire, ſhou
" be choice in collecting them. He aſſured the
" that he would not be wanting on his Part, a
" would take Care of ſome flattering, ſweet-ſcent
" Flowers to make the Noſegay pleaſing to the Ey
" and tempting to the Smell, but which ſhould on
" ſerve the more effectually to convey to the *Sulta*
" Brain, the deadly Steams ariſing from the whole

" *Iſouf* ſent for Roſes from *Damaſcus*, and Lill
" of the *Valley* from the moſt famous Gardeners of t
" *Eaſt*; to theſe he added *Flower-Gentle*, and *Ban*
" to ſerve for a Vehicle to the noxious Vapours
" the reſt.

" In the moſt conſpicuous Part of the Noſega
" he had placed a *Crown-Imperial*, ſurrounded wi
" *Germanders* in Abundance; at a little Diſtance
" *Willow-Bough*, to denote loſt Love, attended wi
" *Galls*, and *Paſſion-Flowers* in great Plenty.

" *Be*

" *Ben-Saddi* had brought him *Dates*, *Time*, and *Reaſons*, to intermix with his Flowers; two Pugils of *Sage*, which he ſaid grew no where but in his own Garden, but which all other Mortals knew to be only common *Spleen-wort*. To theſe he added equal Quantities of the Herb, *German-Panick*, *Scurvy-Graſs*, and *Snap-Dragons*; and crowned his Collection with a Bundle of *Services*.

" The *Renegado*, who was of a more violent Spirit, ſhewed his Temper in the Rankneſs of his Collection; and his Gratitude to the Country which had protected him, when he fled from Juſtice at Home, by ſurrounding a *French Lilly*, and a *Flos Cardinalis*, with *Wormwood*, *Satyrion*, *Bears-Claw*, *Devils-Bit*, and *Hounds-Tongue*.

" This rare Collection did *Iſouf* tie up into a Noſegay with great Pains and Induſtry. And this was to expreſs to the *Sultan* what he had not Liberty to explain to him in his Cloſet.

" *Solyman*, who was conſcious to himſelf that his Actions were above all Reproach, had permitted ſuch Types of his Enemies Thoughts to be brought into the Palace. When this was delivered to him, he looked upon it with more than ordinary Attention. He ſhewed it to *Huſſain*, and asked him his Opinion of it.

" The faithful *Muſſelman* ſtood Silent; he folde
" his Arms on his Breaſt, and fixed his Eyes on th
" Ground, griev'd to ſee in his Maſter's Hands, wha
" almoſt equally reflected on the *Sultan*, and him
" ſelf.

" *Solyman* was ſurprized at this mute Behaviour
" looked again more carefully at the Noſegay, an
" ſeeing there an Herb of evil Signature, which h
" did not remember to have ſeen before in any o
" the moſt virulent Compoſitions, he once agai
" asked of *Huſſain* what it could mean. Sir, ſaid h
" I am unskill'd in theſe Emblems of Slander.
" know them not; but the *Boſtangi*, thy chief Ga
" dener, who has the Happineſs to walk in thoſe de
" lightful Shades, where thou repoſeſt thy ſelf fro
" the Burthen of the World; he who is daily co
" verſant with the eldeſt Products of the Earth, an
" can call the whole vegetable Family by the
" Names, he will explain to thee its Nature, an
" the Interpretation thereof. He was called
" and no ſooner had *Ali* looked upon it, b
" he fell down at his Feet. *Solyman* command
" ed him to ſpeak; when, kiſſing the Hem
" the *Sultan*'s Veſt, Emperor of the Faithful, ſa
" he, May thy Sword tranſplant thy Slave from th
" Garden, to the *Elyſian* Fields, if my Mouth d
" clare not unto thee the Truth this Day.

" Th

" The Plant thou ſeeſt is the moſt pernicious of
" the Creator's Third-Day's Production; poiſonous as
" the Tree *Zacon*, that grows in the Centre of Hell.
" *Mahmut* the *Arabian* firſt ſent this Herb hither from
" among the Infidels. It hath ſince increaſed much
" at *Conſtantinople*. It is called the * *Ill-Neighbour*,
" and is the Emblem of Envy, becauſe it ſuffereth no
" Plant to grow within ten Cubits of it; riſing and
" flouriſhing by their Fall; whilſt this envious Sprout
" looks gay and freſh, in proportion to its baleful In-
" fluence. And as a vile Worm, a *Remora*, is ſaid
" to be able to retard the largeſt Ship when under full
" Sail; ſo this inſignificant Vegetable is capable of
" giving ſome Annoyance even to the ſtouteſt Oak,
" that hath the ill Fortune to grow near it. The
" Tree will lean from it, as from a blaſting Sea Wind.
" It ſhoots no Roots towards it, but ſeems to implore
" the juſt Hand of the Gardener, to remove from it
" this *Ill-Neighbour*.

" May he, whoſe Hand durſt offer to preſent thee
" with this peſtilent Compoſition, ne'er ſee thy Face,
" nor that of the Prophet. But may'ſt thou flou-
" riſh as much over all the Potentates of Earth, as
" the Month of *May* ſurpaſſeth in Beauty and Freſh-
" neſs all its attendant Months; and may they, whom
" the Sender of this would have hurt in thine Opi-
" nion,

* See *Turkiſh Spy*, Vol. II. Page 4.

" nion, continue to ſerve and honour thee, as the
" Flowers adorn the Spring that gave them Birth.
" When *Solyman* had heard this, he ſtood for a
" while collected within himſelf. The firſt Emotions
" he felt were Anger and Indignation: At length,
" *Huſſain*, ſaid he, tho' thou haſt ſhewn much Mo-
" deration in this Affair, yet, as I myſelf am concern-
" ed therein, learn ſtill more from thy Maſter. *Iſouf*
" hath accuſed thee wrongfully; bear his Malice
" with Patience. Should he utter thus much in the
" Divan, they would ſend him to the *Seven Towers*;
" but the Prophet hath commanded the Ears of his
" Succeſſors to be open to the Complaints of all. Fear
" them not; my Heart ſhall be equaly open to thy
" faithful Services. Thy Maſter ſhall ſeparate their
" Calumnies from thy Deſerts, as Chaff from Wheat.
" The Cup of Poiſon which *Iſouf* filleth out for
" thee, ſhall run over into his own Boſom. Thou,
" *Ali*, take this ſlanderous Compoſition, and, tho' I
" yet ſpare the Author, fling it on the Dunghil at the
" Garden-Door of the *Seraglio*, that the true Believer
" who paſſeth by may ſay, Thus much and more
" befal the Man, who ſlandereth thoſe Virtues he
" cannot attain to.

FINIS.